

the sacredness of the place, nor the clearness of his innocence were sufficient to protect him, he cheerfully resigned himself to their power, and while they were conveying him along, gave them the following fable.

‘ There was an old man, said he, who had spent his whole life in the country, without ever seeing the town; but when grown weak with age, was filled with curiosity, and desired to see the place he had so often heard of before he died. His neighbours told him that their asses were very well acquainted with the way, and making them ready, turned the old man and asses loose, without a guide, to try their fortune; but unhappily the old man was overtaken upon the road by a terrible tempest, and it growing dark they lost their way, and tumbled with him into a pit, where he had only time to exclaim, miserable wretch that I am to be destroyed by the basest of beasts, by asses.-- That is now my fate, continued *Æsop*, in suffering by the hands of a barbarous people, who have neither humanity nor honour, but act in opposition to all the ties of hospitality and justice. The Gods, however,

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‘ will not suffer my death to be unrevenged.’
— He was still speaking when they pushed him headlong from the rock, and he was dashed to pieces with the fall.

Soon after this the *Delphians* were visited with famine and pestilence, when the principal of the conspirators, reflecting on *Æsop*’s last words, and the greatness of their guilt, in a fit of despair put an end to their lives.

Æsop, having no children to comfort him in his old age, and to enjoy his riches, adopted a youth, named *Ennus*, for his son; but he turned out a wicked profligate fellow, and was so abandoned, that he accused *Æsop* of treason, in order to take away his life. *Æsop* however, forgave him, and some time after received him into favour, and with his riches bequeathed him the following maxims for the conduct of his life.

Worship God, my son, said he, with care, reverence, and sincerity of heart, void of all ostentation and hypocrisy; for know that he is true, omnipresent and almighty.

Watch over your most private thoughts and actions, for God sees through you; and if you do evil, your conscience will bear witness against you.

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